

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3963

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 2431

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH US

SUBJECT: LOCAL PRC PRESS COMMENTS ON KISSINGER "GUARANTEE" TO
NORMALIZE SINO-US RELATIONS

REF: HONG KONG 2347

1. A FRONT PAGE COMMENTARY IN THE PRC-CONTROLLED HSIEN WAN PAO
MARCH 2 CLAIMS THAT EVEN IF FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER MADE A
UNILATERAL GUARANTEE TO NORMALIZE SINO-US RELATIONS WITHIN
A SPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME, SUCH A GUARANTEE WAS NOT BINDING
--EITHER ON THE FORMER ADMINISTRATION OR ON THE PRESENT ONE.
THE COMMENTARY IS CAREFUL TO NOTE THAT THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH
A GUARANTEE, REPORTEDLY MADE IN 1972 IS STILL IN DOUBT. IT
ADDS THAT INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON HAS PLACED THE TIMEFRAME
FOR THE GUARANTEE AT TWO YEARS (I.E. NORMALIZATION BY 1974)
IN WHICH CASE IT HAS ALREADY EXPIRED ANYWAY.

2. ECHOING OTHER RECENT STATEMENTS IN THE LOCAL PRC PRESS
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MARKING THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE (REFTEL).
THE HSIEN WAN PAO COMMENTARY SEEMS PLEASED BY ADMINISTRATION
STATEMENTS REGARDING NORMALIZATION TO DATE, THE ONLY RESER-
VATION APPEARING TO BE THE LACK OF COMMITMENT TO A SPECIFIC
TIMETABLE. THE COMMENTARY STATES THAT WHILE CARTER NEVER
MENTIONED THE COMMUNIQUE DURING THE ELECTION, AFTER THE
ELECTION HE SAID HE WOULD ACT ACCORDING TO ITS SPIRIT. IN

ADDITION, IT NOTES THAT SECRETARY VANCE IS REVIEWING CONCRETE METHODS TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMUNIQUE, AND HAS EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO DISCUSS THESE METHODS WITH PEKING. ONLY VANCE'S TIME SCHEDULE, IT REPORTS, HAS NOT BEEN FIXED. THE COMMENTARY THEN CITES SOURCES FROM TAIWAN CLAIMING THAT THE SECRETARY MIGHT POSSIBLY GO TO PEKING IN APRIL OR MAY. AND THAT IN LATE SPRING OR EARLY SUMMER TALKS ON NORMALIZATION OF SINO-US RELATIONS MAY BEGIN.

3. COMMENT: OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, THE EVENING HSIN WAN PAO HAS DISCUSSED CERTAIN TOPICS, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING SINO-US RELATIONS. THAT ARE APPARENTLY TOO SENSITIVE FOR ITS EQUALLY UNOFFICIAL BU SLIGHTLY MORE AUTHORATIVE MORNING BRETHREN, WEN WEI AND TA KUNG PAO TO MENTION. LIKE ALL PRC PRESS, OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL, THE HSIN WAN PAO IS CAPABLE OF TURGID AND RELATIVELY MEANINGLESS PROPAGANDA; IN THIS CASE, HOWEVER, WE FEEL THAT THE THOUGHTS EXPRESSED IN THE COMMENTARY SEEM TO BE A REASONABLE REFLECTION OF THE PRC'S POSITION.
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